

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

#BXNFMXY  
#000029103116#  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
901 COMMERCE ST  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620  
CARRIER ROUTE  
005-DTM 3-11  
50000

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 11, 1999

VOL. 123

NO. 5

1999 Season of  
North American  
Missions

Week of Prayer for North  
American Missions  
March 7-14, 1999

North American Missions  
Day in Sunday School  
March 14, 1999

Annie Armstrong  
Easter Offering

National Goal:  
\$45,000,000

Challenge Goal:  
\$50,000,000

[www.namb.net/annie](http://www.namb.net/annie)

## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

People reached at Expo

3

WMU annual meet set

4

SBC budget proposed

5

Letters to the editor

9

## Chicago son returns to old neighborhood

CHICAGO - When Jim Queen started Chicago's Uptown Baptist Church in 1976, he considered the entire community his congregation — a concept that helped Uptown develop into a national model for urban ministry.

Today, as executive director for the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association, he feels the same way about the eight million residents of "Chicagoland."

"I tell our pastors, 'You are not only the pastor of the church. You are also pastor of the community,'" Queen said. "When you understand you're pastoring the community, you open up more opportunities for ministry. ... When we build our image through our credibility, then your community will have a listening ear."

Queen and his wife, Karen, who works as the administrative assistant for the 178-church association, are among the missionaries featured in the Week of Prayer for North American Missions March 7-14. The Week of Prayer is part of the Season of North American Missions, which also includes the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with a national goal for 1999 of \$45 million and a challenge goal of \$50 million.

Chicago also will be featured prominently in the year 2000 as one of the first two target areas, along with Phoenix, in the North American Mission Board's Strategic Focus Cities initiative. That effort will focus thousands of volunteers and other resources on the complementary tasks of evangelism and church planting.



STRATEGY SESSION — Jim Queen (center) talks with Nick Kim (left) and Robert Goette about strategies for multiethnic congregations during a luncheon meeting at a Chinese restaurant in suburban Chicago. (Photo by James Dotson)

A product of a Christian home, Queen signed with the Chicago Bears in 1959, only to be drafted into the Army at about the same time. When he returned in 1961, he was cut from the squad because of a hamstring injury. The following spring, during an Easter Bible study on the Resurrection at his home church, North Shore Baptist Church, he made a profession of faith in Christ.

"I made a commitment to not only give my life to Christ but see Chicago come to Christ," he said.

His early ministry was directed toward working with juvenile delinquents and youth gangs. He initially ministered on the staff of North Shore

Baptist Church, and later through a parachurch ministry he established called Inner City Athletic Mission.

Following seminary education at Southern Seminary, Queen was invited by the director of missions in Chicago to consider starting a church in the neighborhood just north of downtown Chicago where he grew up. In January of 1976, with the support of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Uptown Baptist Church began meeting in his home.

The church targeted the gang members and homeless who populated the streets, the single parents, the elderly, the mentally and emotionally handicapped, and the area's

diverse ethnic population. Those groups, coupled with the enthusiastic young people who shared his vision, came to characterize the congregation.

"My big offering at the end of my third year, my Christmas offering, was \$1.82," he said, "and for the first four (or) five years, I was the only person in the church (who) even had a car." By 1981 the church was able to purchase a deteriorating but historic church building, and the church became one of the strongest in the association.

About 40 different ministries targeting the various groups sprang up, including an art program that has transformed walls formerly covered with graffiti into vast murals portraying the gospels, English as a Second Language classes,

and a homeless shelter in the church's basement.

By 1992, his work at Uptown was seen as a model for effective urban ministry throughout the country, but Queen said he laughed when he was approached about actually leading the association. He was much more comfortable ministering in the inner city than as an administrator in an association office.

"Here's the fear," he said. "... (Southern Baptists) are blessed that God has given us the vision and the ability. If we don't do it, then what if God takes away the mantle? He can put it wherever he wants to, with people who are faithful and persistent."



## B&H takes best-seller awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Two Broadman & Holman books received three 1998 best-seller awards from amazon.com, marking the publisher — a division of LifeWay Christian Resources — as a producer of "great books."

"With a typical best-seller list, great books have to compete for attention with titles outside their genre," Amazon explains on its "1998 Award Winners" Internet website. "As a result, readers may not discover the books they would love. At amazon.com, we're committed to seeing that change."

The two B&H books taking amazon.com best-seller honors were:

- ♦ "Murder on the Titanic" by James Walker for historical religious and inspirational fiction (found under the literature and fiction genre), as well as religious fiction — mystery (in the religion & spirituality genre).

- ♦ "Tiptonary" by Mary Hunt in the personal finance and budgeting category (under the business and investing genre).

Broadman & Holman currently lists more than 1,000 books on the amazon.com website. The amazon.com 1998 best-sellers category listings may be viewed at [www.amazon.com/1998](http://www.amazon.com/1998).

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

A three-part public television series called "God and Politics," produced by Southern Baptist Bill Moyers, is criticized in a resolution presented by Houston Judge Paul Pressler and adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

### 20 years ago

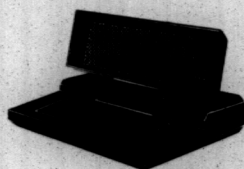
The Mississippi Baptist Convention and four African-American state conventions are cooperating in a statewide evangelistic effort called Good News Mississippi, the result of more than a year of planning by an interracial committee of Mississippi Baptist religious leaders.

### 50 years ago

Chester Swor leads a Christian Life Week revival at First Church, Charleston. The church receives 18 additions by baptism and four by letter. First Church has \$54,000 in their building fund and is looking forward to a new house of worship in the future. Kermit Canterbury is pastor.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE  
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER  
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER  
Heather Cumberland

EDITORS EMERITI  
Don McGregor  
Guy Henderson

**Baptist Record Advisory Committee:**  
Bettye Coward, Clinton;  
Charles Dunagin, McComb  
Larry Garner, Jackson;  
David Petty, Jackson  
Gary Richardson, West Point;  
Heather Cumberland, secretary.

**Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800  
Missrecord@aol.com**

VOLUME 123 NUMBER 5  
(ISSN-0005-5778)  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

## A secure legacy

**R**etired U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Harry A. Blackmun, 90, passed away March 11 from complications following hip replacement surgery. Supreme Court justices come and go as we all do in the flow of life, but Blackmun's 24-year career on the court will be marked in history with special odium.

He was the author of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1972 Supreme Court decision that discovered the legal right to abortion was contained in the U.S. Constitution.

Thus began our own slaughter of the innocents which continues to this day, snuffing out tens of millions of lives that represent one-third of the generations conceived since the *Roe* ruling. The numbers are simply staggering.

Although he was joined by six other justices in voting for the decision, Blackmun wrote the majority opinion that sought to justify the court's ruling. He authored many other major opinions, but *Roe v. Wade* brought vilification for the remainder of his career on the court.

"I suppose I'll carry *Roe* to my grave," he said in 1983.

Blackmun may be in the grave but his *Roe* legacy remains, a stench in the nostrils of God and after 25 years still one of the most divisive issues in American life.

In the years since the *Roe* decision, the public conversation over its effects and its future has devolved from a moral debate into a nasty political brawl filled with insults, recriminations, and negative campaigns.

Doctors have been shot. Clinics have been bombed and burned. Women have died horrible deaths in substandard outpa-

tient facilities that pass for abortion clinics. The jumbled bodies of aborted babies have been dumped along roadsides.

Marriages, families, and lives have been shattered.

Many mothers and fathers of aborted babies have sentenced themselves to a lifetime of guilt, which often serves as a devastating impediment to their relationships with God.

We have focused on killing as efficiently as possible. Morning after pills are now widely available. Dangerous abortifacient chemicals can be introduced into the mother's system to poison the baby — and sometimes the mother.

Ever-improving equipment and technology allow abortionists to pinpoint and whisk away the "products of conception" in record numbers and minimal time, thereby increasing financial returns.

Then there's the unimaginable technique called partial-birth abortion, where a full-term infant is physically torn from the mother's womb and legally destroyed — up to the moment of birth.

There is not enough room to list all the ways legalized abortion has changed our society, and our society's individual members, for the worse.

However, one important way it has changed us is hard to overlook.

As our willful disregard for human life spreads from the beginning of life to the

"PRAY THAT GOD WILL KNOW MY WILL."



other end — witness our growing national fascination with euthanasia and assisted suicide — the phrase, "A life not worth living," seems to once again be gaining currency after a half-century of disgrace.

Rest in peace, Justice Blackmun. Your legacy is as secure and popular in America today as it would have been in the Nazi Germany of old.

If that thought doesn't drive you to your knees before Almighty God, what will?

## Annie Armstrong: her life and her missions offering

**B**orn in 1850 in Baltimore, Md., Annie Armstrong grew up with strong convictions about missions. Living in the city, Armstrong developed interest in African-Americans, immigrants, the sick, and the poor.

Armstrong began a lifestyle of ministry through her church and the charitable institutions of Baltimore when she was a young adult.

The year 1880 marked a turning point in her life. In response to a speaker who told of destitute conditions and needs of native Americans, she began a pilgrimage of leadership in missions and mission support.

Two years later, she was elected president of the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland. The society's objective was to involve women in support of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. She held this office until 1906.

In 1888, Armstrong was elected corresponding secretary of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), an organization she helped found. She gave her all to WMU and the work it supported as she led it to be a major force for missions in the Southern Baptist Convention. She held this position also until 1906.

Since 1895, Southern Baptists have supported a national offering for home missions. Initiated by the

WMU as the "Week of Self-Denial for Home Missions," the week acquainted women with the needs of Southern Baptist missionaries in the U. S.

In 1934, the offering was named the "Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions" in honor of Miss Annie.

In 1998, the offering was renamed the "Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions." It supports missionaries in the United States and its territories, and also in Canada.

Nearly \$800 million have been given to the offering during its 103-year history, supporting thousands of missionaries who evangelized the lost,



**Annie Armstrong**

ministered to the needs of millions of people and started thousands of Southern Baptist churches.

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) was created in 1997 when the resources of three former SBC agencies — the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, the Radio and Television Commission in Ft. Worth, and the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis were combined.

The primary responsibility of NAMB is to assist Southern Baptist churches in reaching the U.S., its territories, and Canada with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Nearly 5,000 North American missions personnel, most of whom are jointly appointed

with state Baptist conventions, receive support from AAEO.

The offering supports NAMB's two major thrusts: evangelism and church planting. The agency provides assistance to churches, associations, and state conventions in the areas of: soul-winning training; interfaith witness; and church and community ministries, which include Alternatives for Life ministries and evangelistic events.

NAMB President Bob Reccord has pledged that the agency will place special emphasis in the future on five priorities:

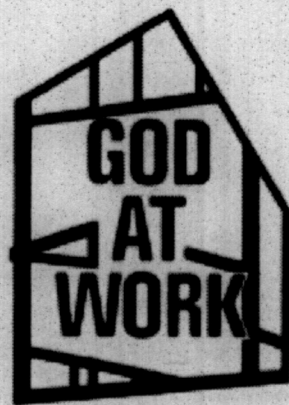
- ◆ Impacting major cities.
- ◆ Growing ethnic congregations.
- ◆ Evangelizing students.
- ◆ Mobilizing missions volunteers.
- ◆ Reaching Canada with the Gospel.

For information on North American missions, contact NAMB at 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202-4174. Telephone: (770) 410-6000.

For information on AAEO in Mississippi, contact Woman's Missionary Union at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Source: North American Mission Board.

## 1999 Season of North American Missions



Week of Prayer for North American Missions  
March 7-14, 1999

North American Missions Day in Sunday School  
March 14, 1999

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
National Goal: \$45,000,000  
Challenge Goal: \$50,000,000

[www.namb.net/annie](http://www.namb.net/annie)



# Rainer calls churches back to evangelism

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

"As I travel around the United States, I'm looking at Southern Baptist churches that are doing a great job of reaching people for Jesus Christ.

"I'm looking at some churches that are not doing as great a job, and I'm trying to find out what distinguishes those churches from the other churches," said Thom Rainer Feb. 27 at the Jim Buck Ross Ag Museum in Jackson.

Rainer is the dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He was the keynote speaker for the People Reach Expo sponsored by the Bible Study Team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"The Bible Study Team designed this event to, number one, highlight the need to reach people, for that is the mission of the church, and second, to give people ideas, things they could use when they get back home so they can go about accomplishing the Great Commission," said David Wills, director of the MBCB

Sunday School Department.

In a search to understand what causes churches to grow evangelistically, Rainer and the Billy Graham School have spent five years looking at over 3,000 churches of various denominations from all geographic regions of the U.S.

"We have looked at 2,000 churches that meet the criteria for being an evangelistic church," Rainer said. That criteria is: having at least 26 baptisms a year, and a baptism-to-member ratio of less than 20 to one.

Of the 2,000 evangelistic churches selected for study, half were Southern Baptist. They ranged in size from 30 to 7,000 in average attendance.

Researchers also looked at 1,000 other churches, both Southern Baptists and non-Southern Baptists, as a control group, Rainer indicated.

From this research Rainer said they have identified nine characteristics of churches that will reach people in the 21st century. (see box) "We sought to find out what is really happening in those churches that are reaching people for Jesus Christ," he said.

"If I had to summarize what we have discovered, there are three big issues. One of them is related directly to the pastor, the other two directly to the church.

"The one that relates directly to the pastor is, the pastor is doing expository preaching. What that means is, the Bible, the text, drives the sermon.

"The pastor is going to the Word of God and he is letting the Bible speak for itself.

"Second, there is the presence of a powerful prayer ministry. It may be an intercessory prayer room that allows everyone the oppor-

tunity to participate in prayer.

"Third, Sunday School is being used as an evangelistic arm of the church.

"We have always said that, but for the past three decades the reality is Southern Baptist churches have forfeited evangelism in the Sunday School," Rainer said.

One of the weaknesses Rainer has observed in Southern Baptist churches is that they are not aware of reality.

"Many of our Southern Baptist churches think they are doing a good job. The bills are being paid, we have Sunday School teachers, we have a staff that is in place... we are doing a good job as a church," he said.

"However, when you start examining who they are reaching, how many people they are losing, their baptism ratio, and other factors, a different picture emerges," Rainer indicated.

"One of the things we are trying to do is not discourage churches, but try to help them see reality. Sometimes when they see the reality it helps motivate them to do more."

After five years of research

Rainer has come to the conclusion that one of the best things a church can do is simply decide that they want to be evangelistic, make it a priority, be accountable for it, and be intentional.

"That's not a great program; it's not a new methodology that we are delivering. We are just saying be intentional about doing evangelism."

The People Reach Expo was held at the agricultural museum by design, according to Wills.

"If we are really going to reach people in the future we are going to have to go outside of the church. We hope the result of this conference will be churches having a renewed sense of interest in reaching people and (gaining) some 'how tos' to go back and immediately put into practice at their church," Wills said.



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

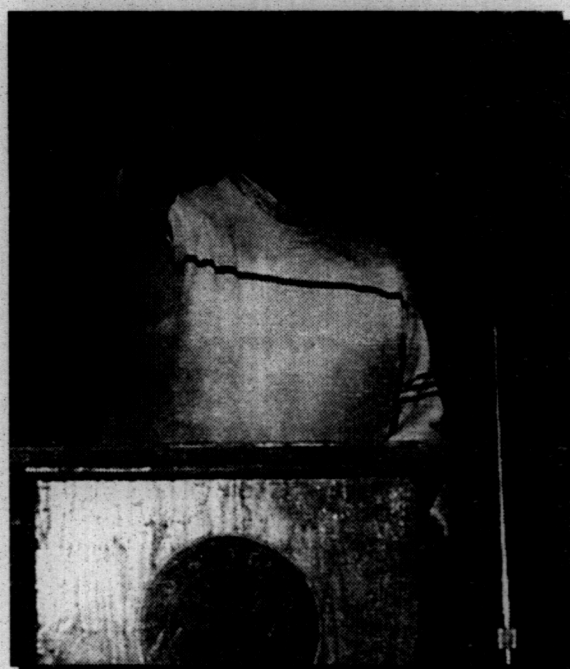
# Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 11, 1999

VOL. 123

No. 5



Rainer

## The 21st Century: Reaching people for Christ

1. Use Sunday School as an evangelistic tool.
2. Evangelize young people.
3. Have high expectations of leaders and members.
4. Conduct a membership class where what is expected of members is taught.
5. Pastor does personal evangelism.
6. Be intentional about evangelism, giving it priority, and accountability.
7. Teach the six purposes of the church to all members (Evangelism, prayer, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, worship).
8. Pastor preaches expository, or text-driven, sermons.
9. Emphasize quality over quantity.

Source: Thom Rainer

## Miss. CP jumps by nearly 11%

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2,347,437 through the Cooperative Program (CP) in February, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which distributes the funds.

That amount, added to January's gifts, totals \$4,879,708. This is \$476,495, or 10.82%, more than that given in the first two months of 1998.

February gifts were higher than any previous February and gifts for January and February were higher than any previous first two months.

Gifts thus far in 1999 are \$445,059, or 10.04%, higher than the pro rata budget.

The pro rata budget is figured by taking the total 1999 Cooperative Program budget of \$26,607,890, dividing by 12 (months) and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

The Cooperative Program in Mississippi helps fund such programs as the Marriage Enrichment Conference in Tupelo, March 19-20; the Church Weekday Education Clinic in Jackson, March 27; and the Youth Ringers Festival in Jackson, March 27.

## SBC CP up 5.4% over last year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for February were down slightly compared to a year ago while the year-to-date total remains ahead of the similar period a year ago.

For February 1999, CP receipts totaled \$13,969,070 compared to February 1998 of \$14,072,308, a decrease of .75% or \$105,237. For the SBC fiscal year, after five months, CP gifts totaled \$70,200,855 compared to the previous year's total of \$66,606,966, an increase of 5.40% or \$3,593,888.

Designated gifts for the month of February were \$43,951,225 compared to the same month in 1998 of \$48,179,231, a decrease of 8.78% or \$4,228,005. For the year to date, designated gifts total \$73,024,773 compared to the previous year of \$77,299,241, a decrease of 5.53% or \$4,274,468.

For the SBC's Program Allocation Budget at the end of five months, the required budget amount of \$66,585,717 was surpassed by \$3,615,137, an increase of 5.43%. For the month of February, the required monthly budget figure of \$12,917,143 was surpassed by \$1,049,926, or an increase of 8.13%.



## Fire guts Elliff home

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — The home of former Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff was destroyed by fire late Sunday night, Feb. 21. Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., and his wife, Jeannie, were in Hawaii at the time of the blaze, which sent flames as high as 100 feet into the sky and damaged three other nearby homes. Investigators said Monday afternoon the fire was thought to have begun about 10:45 p.m. in the garage and spread to the house. They had not ruled out arson as a possible cause, however. No estimate of the total amount of damage was available.

# WMU annual meeting slated for March 15

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB Communications director

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) kicks off its 120th annual meeting March 15 with a dedication service for Patterson Place, the adult lodge nearing completion on the grounds of Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

The dedication service begins at 10:30 a.m., after a one-hour open house at the lodge which is named for long-time WMU leader Marjean Patterson.

Patterson Place will have 30 guest rooms plus conference facilities. The lodge will utilize the existing dining room of Camp Garaywa.

The WMU annual meeting will begin at 1:15 p.m. on March 15 at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. The theme is "Be Transformed."

The meeting features Mississippians Jerry and Bobbye Rankin. Jerry Rankin is president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va. Jerry Rankin will speak during the March 15

opening session, while Bobbye Rankin will speak during the March 15 evening session which begins at 6:15 p.m.

Prayer will be an integral part of the annual meeting, according to Kay Cassibry, Mississippi WMU executive director.

During the March 15 afternoon and evening sessions, and the third session on March 16 beginning at 9 a.m., prayer walks will be featured. WMU executive board members will be paired with missionaries who will discuss their needs. The board members will lead in prayer.

Missionaries involved in the prayer walks include Wayne Frederick, France; Alicia Braswell, Brazil; Mary Dan Stampley, Philippines; Linda Smith, Jackson; Jerry Rankin, IMB; Rob Sugg, Taiwan; Larry Hendricks, Costa Rica; Bobbye Rankin, IMB; and Bob Storie, Pascagoula.

At 2 p.m. on the afternoon of March 16, Cassibry will lead participants in a prayer walk in Jackson where two Habitat for

Humanity houses are to be built July 11-17 utilizing WMU volunteers.

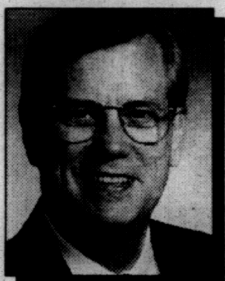
Other featured speakers include Tom and Gloria Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh, who will discuss "Calling for Prayer Warriors;" Brian Bakke, a staffer with Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago; and Delane Tew, volunteer connection specialist with the Southern Baptist WMU in Birmingham, who will discuss "Partnering with Habitat for Humanity."

Steve and Ruth Glaze, faculty members at Mississippi College, will offer theme interpretations.

Musicians include Karen Hardy of First Church, Collins; and the Mississippi Singing Churchmen.

Keyboardists will be Mary Simmons, a retired missionary from Meridian, and Cissa Richardson, retired pastor's wife from Madison.

"It's an exciting time," said Cassibry. "God is moving in Mississippi and women are going to lead out. There's an urgency among our women to be out building God's kingdom."



J. Rankin



B. Rankin



T. Thurman



G. Thurman



Bakke



Tew

## Missionary family narrowly escapes ambush

KAABONG, Uganda (BP) — Missionaries Bruce and Martha Schmidt and two of their children narrowly escaped when unidentified gunmen fired on their double-cab pick-up truck Feb. 14 near Kaabong, Uganda.

The Schmidts, Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries in Uganda, were traveling from Kampala, Uganda's capital, to their home in Kaabong when assailants shot three bullets into their truck, said IMB missionary Mark Pierce, a friend and co-worker of the couple.

The first bullet blew a front tire and the brake line, Pierce said. The second entered the cab at the left rear, passed over Michael, the couple's 8-year-old son, then went through Schmidt's headrest and blew out his window. Schmidt drove as fast as he could on three wheels and a tire rim as the truck took a third bullet which entered low between the front and back seats.

Schmidt, his son and 13-year-old daughter, Stephanie, suffered only minor injuries from flying glass and fragmenting bullets.

The gunmen, who shot unseen from the left, have not been found. The Valentine's Day attack occurred in a region that's home to the Karamojong, a tribe the Schmidts have worked with for four years.

"The Jie, a Karamojong sub-tribe to the south of us, have a history of occasionally killing for no reason," said Pierce, from Wayne City, Ill. "Only God's love can change that."

The incident has been a positive witness to the Karamojong, Pierce said. "Many of them came to see the truck and were

amazed that no one was killed and God protected them."

While they are stepping up safety precautions, Pierce said he and the Schmidts are not leaving the area.

"We don't intend to be scared away and feel that God must be up to something in Karamoja for all this opposition from Satan to be happening," he said.

The Schmidts were appointed as IMB missionaries in 1987. They worked among the Maasai tribe in Kenya before transferring to Uganda in 1994.



## MISSIONARY NEWS

## India hospital celebrates 40th anniversary

NALERIGU, Ghana (BP) — The first baby born in the Baptist Medical Center of Nalerigu, Ghana, was named

John the Baptist — a prophetic name, one synonymous with preparing the way for Jesus.

At the hospital's recent 40th anniversary celebration, the prophecy clearly has become reality. More than 4,000 people attended an all-night celebration for a ministry that has helped start three dozen churches in the area. More than 120 decisions for Christ were registered during the event.

"I was surprised at the numbers that came forward," said Diane Lay, an International Mission Board missionary at the hospital since 1961.

She shouldn't have been surprised, though, knowing that all of the 36 or more Baptist churches in the area have been started because of the ministry of the hospital.

"Either someone from a village has been a patient and shown interest in becoming a Christian, or someone from the

hospital has gone to the village to preach the Good News, she said. The chiefs always tell me, 'I know you. You are at the hospital and you have helped my people.'"

More than 4,000 people covered the football field next to the hospital for a crusade that lasted throughout the night and into the next day.

The "Jesus" film kicked off the event. Speeches by Baptist leaders and government dignitaries began at 1 a.m. Performances by local groups kept things lively between addresses.

The crusade lit up the night, and the next morning several local congregations gathered for a combined service.

Lay said local churches now face the challenge of following up those who made decisions.

"Pray that those who made decisions will be encouraged and their lives will be a celebration of that new faith," she said.

## Ag Missions members accept challenge

The highlight of the recent annual meeting of the Agricultural Missions Foundation (AMF) held Feb. 20 at First Church, Belzoni, was the acceptance of the challenge of AMF president Frank Prewitt of Belzoni to fund two projects in Central American areas severely damaged by Hurricane Mitch late last year. Prewitt told the group, "We have been asked to replace a number of goats and rabbits that were lost during Hurricane Mitch at a small animal project of International Mission Board missionaries and the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention. Also Hurricane Mitch severely affected another Baptist project in Oaxaca, Mexico, destroying goats, chickens, rabbits, and honey production. This was devastating for an already marginal subsistence farming community."

After committing almost \$60,000 to the projects, AMF officers, directors, and members immediately considered ways to meet the challenge:

- Encourage churches, civic clubs, WMU groups, men's classes and Brotherhood groups to use a new slide and video program that has been prepared to encourage participation in these and other projects.
- Sponsor "catfish suppers" as one means of raising funds for these mission projects.
- Ask members and others to contribute directly to these projects.

To schedule a video or slide presentation and for more information on these projects, contact Harold Watson, program coordinator, 1153 Owens Road, Terry, MS 39170. Telephone: (601) 857-8544.



# Proposed SBC budget to keep percentages

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Messengers to the June annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will vote on a proposed 1999-2000 SBC Cooperative Program (CP) Allocation Budget of nearly \$160 million which retains the current percentage distribution to SBC entities.

That was the decision of the Executive Committee, which proposes a budget each year for the Southern Baptist Convention at the committee's regular meeting in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 22-23.

Messengers will vote on a proposed 1999-2000 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget that, percentage-wise, is identical to this year's budget. Although this year's budget, \$155,005,723, is increased to \$159,583,743, the percentage distribution to SBC agencies will be the same. The nearly \$160 million budget proposal for 1999-2000 is the same as the receipts for the last budget year of record (1997-98), which is a policy the Executive Committee follows in setting a budget cap. The SBC budget year is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

With the same percentages as in this year's budget, the International Mission Board (IMB) will receive 50% or \$79,791,872; the North American Mission Board (NAMB), 22.79% or \$326,369,135; the six seminaries 21.64% or \$34,533,922 (which is divided among the seminaries according to a complex seminary funding formula based primarily on full-time-equivalent enrollment); Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 1.49% or \$2,377,798; Annuity Board, 0.76% or \$1,212,836; and the SBC Operating Budget, 3.32% or \$5,298,180.

The theological education ministries portion of the budget, which includes the six seminaries, will be distributed as follows: Southwestern Seminary, \$9,916,319 or 6.21% of the total SBC budget; Southern Seminary, \$6,127,389 or 3.84%; New Orleans Seminary, \$6,149,656 or 3.85%; Southeastern Seminary, \$5,895,034 or 3.69%; Golden Gate Seminary, \$3,156,152

or 1.98%; Midwestern Seminary, \$2,906,371 or 1.82%; and the Historical Library and Archives, \$383,001 or 0.24%.

The SBC Operating Budget total includes \$425,000 for the Baptist World Alliance, as well as funding for the Executive Committee and the SBC annual meeting.

The proposed budget also allows any receipts above the budgeted amount for the year to be distributed 50% to the Capital Needs Budget and 50% to Ministry Advance.

However, if CP receipts continue as they have in recent years, there is a good possibility the remaining \$3,151,520 of the 10-year Capital Needs Budget will be met through this year's receipts.

If so, all the receipts over the budget in 1999-2000 will be distributed to Ministry Advance which is the same distribution to SBC entities as in the regular budget. Nearly \$5.7 million was distributed last year via the Capital Needs Budget (scheduled from 1990-91 through 1999-2000) as the result of overages above the 1997-98 budget.

Executive Committee members also were

informed that C. Barry McCarty, longtime chief parliamentarian for SBC annual meetings, will again assume that role at this year's meeting in Atlanta. McCarty is pastor of Lakota Christian Church in Cincinnati and an adjunct professor at Northern Kentucky University.

## Eagle Awards go to Miss. churches



Three churches received Eagle Awards at a recent Growth Spiral Conference at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The Eagle Award is the only award given to churches by the Lifeway Christian Resources as a recognition of significant growth in Sunday School. Ken Marler, (left), consultant with the Sunday School Department of Lifeway, presented the awards. Representing the Eagle Award churches were (from left after Marler): Gary Stafford, minister of education, First Church, Olive Branch; Lee Hudson, pastor, North Batesville Church; Jim Butler, pastor, and John Miller, minister of education, Trinity Church, Southaven. John Clendinning (right), Sunday School Department consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) was also on hand for the awards. For more information on the Eagle Award program, contact the MBCB Sunday School Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. (Photo by Carl M. White)

### FORCED TERMINATION

Some people say the preacher was "fired." Other folks say the preacher "got run off." Today, we refer to this experience as "forced termination."

A working definition of "forced termination" is the severance of a formal relationship between a church and a minister either by coercion or a vote. That is probably accurate, but it is awfully academic. I'm not arguing with the definition, but it certainly fails to describe the pain and deep anguish in the hearts of so many of the people and in the lives of a pastor's family.

There may be occasions when it is the only thing to do, but it is never a good thing to do. The tension that exists between a leader and a congregation is always potentially fragile.

In the early "honeymoon" days of a pastorate, when neither people nor pastor really know each other, there is the possibility of easily and quickly being misunderstood and misinterpreted.

On the other side of the equation, after a long pastorate when you may know each other too well, you can grow tired of each other and become fractious about decision making. As a result, sometimes someone or some group of someones decide the preacher has to go.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

This is not a new phenomenon but now that we keep records of such things it seems to be an all too frequent, reoccurring experience.

Yes, it seemed to have happened in the Bible. Some thought they ought to get rid of Moses. There was a self-appointed evaluation group that went and told Amos he needed to move on.

One man with twisted self-motives decided that the first Baptist preacher needed his head removed.

Last year, in Mississippi, there were 45 forced terminations in the pastorate. The number reported is somewhat up from last year and down from other years.

Why were these men put out of their jobs? That too is a difficult question to answer; sometimes the answer given is only a part of an underlying problem. Still, as accurately as can be dis-

cerned, there are a variety of issues that bring about dismissal.

Of a dozen possibilities listed, at least one pastor was dismissed for each one. What are some of the reasons? Think about this list: pastor's leadership style was too weak; pastor's leadership was too strong; control issues — who is going to run the church; church conflicts that existed before the pastor arrived; sexual misconduct; ethical misconduct; the pastor stayed too long; disagreement over doctrine; administrative incompetence; conflict with other staff; and church resistant to new ideas.

While some church leaders may feel that forced termination is a mandate they must carry out, several things need to be remembered:

♦ Rarely, if ever, is a church's witness enhanced or enlarged through forced termination.

♦ Many members of the congregation will never understand the issues and their spiritual lives will be set back — sometimes forever scarred by the action.

♦ A pastor, his wife, and usually innocent children will be affected for life. It may be possible for a church, in time, to forget about that experience but often those children never forget about that church.

What can be done? Surely we can do better. Since each situation is unique, there is no simple solution, but let me offer some possibilities that would help:

♦ Restore genuine biblical respect for each other — the pastor for his people, and the people for the shepherd God has placed among them.

♦ Implement the doctrine we say we believe. Our congregations are filled with people who know enough Bible that we can define forgiveness, but a definition and a demonstration are two different things.

Surely that for which Jesus died on the cross was greater than the petty things with which we become obsessed.

More often than we want to admit, it would probably be better if we all exercised love, remembered who we are without Christ, and who we're supposed to be because we belong to him.

## Messenger cards available for SBC

Messenger cards for the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Atlanta June 13-16 are now available from the office of the executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Messenger cards will be mailed only to churches that request the cards for members planning to attend the 1999 SBC meeting.

For more information and to request messenger cards, contact the MBCB executive director's office (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651, extension 201.



## NAMES IN THE NEWS

Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, licensed Lee Allred (left) to the ministry on Jan. 24. Bendon Ginn (right) is pastor.



Allred and Ginn

Charles Holifield was recently honored as pastor emeritus at Liberty Church,

Liberty. Pictured (from left) are Martin Hayden, pastor, and Holifield.



Hayden and Holifield



The Robertses and Vanlandingham

Willie M. Roberts, member of Sylvarena Church, Wesson, was presented a plaque of appreciation for over 41 years of service as deacon. He has held leadership positions,

served on committees, and has been a member of Sylvarena Church since 1950. Pictured with Roberts is his wife Lillian and Jon Vanlandingham, pastor.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Sergei Khrushchev and David and Julie Nixon Eisenhower will give a panel discussion on March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Swor Auditorium at Mississippi College. The panel discussion will focus on, but not limited to, the Cold War era and each of the participant's perspectives of growing up as children of world leaders during that time. Khrushchev is the son of the late former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. David Eisenhower is the grandson of President Eisenhower. Julie Nixon Eisenhower is the daughter of President Nixon.

Tickets (free) to the lecture will be available on March 15 at various locations. For further information call Patty Tadlock at (601) 925-3400.

The music department of Mississippi College will present Adam Livingston in a senior trumpet recital on March 15 in Aven Auditorium. Livingston is the son of Wayne and Connie Livingston of Longwood, Fla., and is a student of Wayne Linehan.

Mississippi College office of continuing education will offer a course in Windows 95/98 and Internet beginning on April 6 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and running for four consecutive Tuesdays. For more information call Krisi Lee at (601) 925-3301. A course entitled "Spanish for Law Enforcement Officials" will be offered on Tuesday nights, 6-9

p.m., beginning on March 23. This course is designed to equip local law enforcement with basic Spanish skills needed to communicate with multi-lingual citizens. For more information call Ken Gilliam at (601) 925-3263.

Carey Dinner Theatre at William Carey College will hold open auditions for performers and conduct interviews for staff members on March 20. The procedure will begin at 10 a.m. in O. L. Quave Theatre on the college's Hattiesburg campus. The only requirement for auditioning or applying for a staff position is high school graduation or its equivalent by May 25, the date rehearsals begin. For additional information write to Carey Dinner Theatre, William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499, or call (601) 582-6218.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Kilmichael, Kilmichael:** March 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m. (lunch provided); Benny Jackson, Germantown, Tenn., evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, Mathiston, music.

**Pleasant Grove, Shannon:** March 14-19; Sunday services, 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m., and gospel concert from 6-6:30 p.m. with Perk Palmer of Rienzi; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Harvey Reeves, full-time evangelist; Gary Haynes, Tupelo, music; Joe Holcomb, pastor.

**Strong Hope, Wesson:** March 18-21; Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, 10:50 a.m. with lunch following; Tim Myers, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Cleonae Reid, music; Troy Bankston, pastor.

**Union, Raleigh:** March 21-24; services, Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and evenings at 7 p.m.; Steve Foster, "Love in Action" ministries, Loganville, Ga.; Stephen Forfer, pastor.

**Antioch, Columbus:** March 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Clark Stewart, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Edward N. Knox, pastor.

**North McComb, McComb:** March 21-24; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Hurt, Canton, evangelist; Lewis Oswalt, Clinton, music; John H. Bley, pastor.

### CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.



★ Cushions ★ Baptisries  
★ Steeples ★ Renovation  
★ Pews and Pulpit  
Furniture  
(New and Used)

Wallace E. Foy

WATTS 1-800-898-0551  
Jackson 957-3762

Call for Free BROCHURE

**BAPTISTRIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

## WMU events announced

Excel: Mission Trip Training for Youth will be held Friday, April 30 beginning at 5:30 p.m. through Saturday, May 1 at 3 p.m. at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

All youth and youth leaders who are planning on participating in a mission trip this summer are invited to attend. The cost is \$26 per person, which includes lodging, meals, and program fee. For more information contact the WMU office at 968-3800 or 800-748-1651 outside Jackson.

More than 8,000 Southern Baptist congregations now trust Church Mutual for property, liability, workers' compensation and commercial auto insurance advice and protection.

Where 8,122 Southern Baptist churches turn for protection.

At no cost or obligation to you, we'll conduct an on-site analysis of your buildings and activities, then recommend a plan designed specifically for your church. Compare our plan with your present insurance program. You'll find out why more churches trust Church Mutual than any other insurance company in the nation. Call today. 800-554-2642 www.churchmutual.com

**Church Mutual**  
THE SPECIALIST

FREE ON-SITE ANALYSIS



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 11, 1999

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## TOWARD A GROWING MARRIAGE

A Biblical, Practical Marriage Seminar  
Main Street BC, Hattiesburg, March 12-13



Gary Chapman

Noted author of:

*The Five Love Languages, The Five Love Languages of Children, and The Five Signs of a Functional Family*

Seven High Energy Sessions with Gary Chapman

- Humorous - How to communicate in the midst of conflict
- Challenging - How to avoid financial bondage
- Exciting - How to make sex mutually fulfilling
- Relevant - How to rekindle love

Seminar Cost:	Individual	Couple
Early Registration by Feb. 19	\$35	\$65
Group Rates:		
10 couples		\$60
15 couples		\$55
20 couples		\$50
Registration	\$45	\$75

For more information or to register call:  
1-800-254-2022

## Church Facilities

April 13, 1999  
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Parkway Baptist Church  
802 North Frontage Road  
Clinton, Mississippi  
924-9912

### Church Facilities Workshop Registration Form

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Matt Buckles for more information: 968-3800  
or 1-800-748-1651

Mail form to: Matt Buckles, Church Building Services  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



## Christian Performing Arts Festival

with Church  
Recreation and Youth  
Leader Conferences

March 26-27, 1999  
Morrison Heights  
Baptist Church  
Clinton • Cost \$20

For more information, contact  
Discipleship & Family Ministry Department  
(601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

## "Becoming A Friend and Lover Conference"



With Dick Purnell

President of Single Life Resources

Saturday, April 24

Registration 8:00 a.m.

Conference 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25 (includes box lunch) before April 11  
\$30 (includes box lunch) before April 18  
\$35 (includes box lunch) walk in

Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg  
Call Steve Bublitz, 601-544-5444





**Hear Ye!  
Hear Ye!**

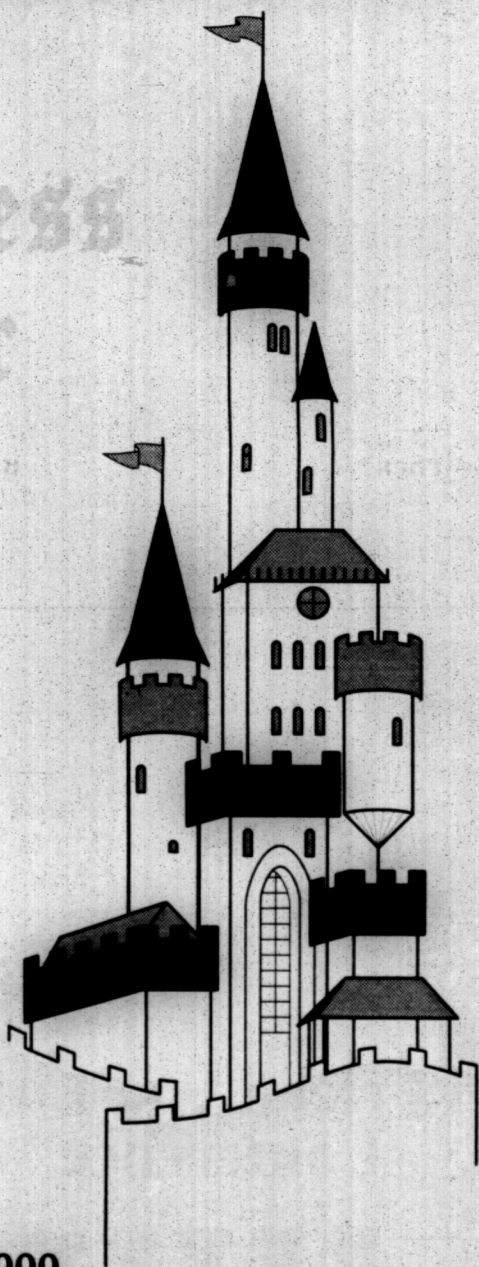
A royal proclamation to  
all the daughters of THE KING  
to attend

Princess  
Power

Mississippi  
Baptist  
Secretaries  
Conference

April 12-13, 1999  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Miss.

If you haven't received your  
brochure by March 19, call  
Kay McDonnell, 968-3800  
or 1-800-748-1651



## STATE SENIOR ADULT RETREATS, "JOYFUL JOURNEY OF SENIORS"

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (228-452-7261) (May use VISA Card, Starting March 1, 1999)

Registration 1:30 p.m.	May 17-19	May 20-22	May 24-28
	<b>\$83</b>	<b>\$83</b>	<b>\$150</b>
Preacher	J. Garland McKee Clinton	Clifton Perkins Clinton	J. Ferris Jordan Baton Rouge
Choir	First Baptist Church Jackson	First Baptist Church Laurel	North Oxford BC Oxford
Music	Dennis Daniels Jackson	Jimmy Little Laurel	Allen Harris Oxford
Organist	Pauline Moore Kosciusko	Ed Sudduth McComb	Dot Pray MBCB
Pianist	June McKee Clinton	Irene Martin Harperville	Irene Martin Harperville
Morning Watch	Gordon Sansing, Sr. Meridian	Joe Stovall, Jr. Raymond	Marjean Patterson Clinton

Conference	May 17-19	May 20-22	May 24-28
Grandparenting Is Not Like It Use To Be	Talmadge Smith Brookhaven	Ronney Joe Webb Laurel	Charles Stubblefield Ecru
Making Retirement Special	W. Levon Moore Kosciusko	Fred Tarpley, Sr. Madison	Horace Kerr Brandon
Heaven, Your Real Home	Jim Yates Yazoo City	Kermit McGregor Mendenhall	Barry Worrell Grenada
Prayer Life	Jan Cossitt Clinton	Clyde Little Bay Springs	Jan Halford Jackson
Grief/Suffering	Dennis Daniels Jackson	Farley Earnest Brandon	Frank Bishop Seminary
Joyful Heart	M.C. Johnson Clarksdale	Mickey Bounds Vicksburg	Arlis Nichols Enterprise
Crafts	James & Mattie Ray Ripley	James & Mattie Ray Ripley	James & Mattie Ray Ripley
HIS-tory in Hymns	Irene Martin Harperville	Bob Hatzfeld Greenwood	Buddy McElroy Meridian
Second Half of Marriage	Farrell & Joann Blankenship MBCB	Mose & Kathleen Dangierfield Clinton	James & Cissa Richardson Madison
Leadership	Dennis Daniels Jackson (Wednesday)	Farley Earnest Brandon (Saturday)	Dallas Roscoe Tennessee
Departure	Noon	Noon	10 a.m.

### Workshops for May 24-28

**Wednesday:** Women's Ministry - Cissa Richardson, Madison, Men's Ministry - Paul Harrell, MBCB

**Thursday:** Genealogy, Grandparent Brag Bag, Crafts, Health Issues, Retirement/Estate Management, etc.  
Ice Cream Fellowships, Seafood Banquets, Gifts, Fun!

## LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

March 23, 1999 • Baptist Building, Jackson • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



### LEADER:

Joe Stacker, Pastor of Belmont Heights BC in Nashville and former director of Church Administration Department of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

### PURPOSE:

This conference will examine the meaning of Christian leadership with a view to the next millennium. Primary emphasis will be given to the leadership style and example modeled by Jesus Christ. Other leadership styles, perceptions of leadership, contemporary models, attitudes on leadership and changes in local church ministry affecting leadership will also be examined. Idea-storming and dialogue about effective ministry leadership for church health in the 21st century will be involved in this conference.

### Leadership for the 21st Century - Registration Form

There is no cost for this conference. Lunch will either be on your own or ordered at the registration time at \$7 per person.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and return to: Matt Buckles, CAPM Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

PREREGISTRATION: Requested by March 19



## '99 State Bible Drills

Date	Location	Time
MONDAY April 12	Hernando, Hernando BC Gulfport, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY April 13	Greenwood, FBC Brookhaven, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
THURSDAY April 15	Tupelo, FBC (Churches outside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County and Tishomingo Assoc.) Saltillo, FBC (Churches inside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County and Tishomingo Assoc.)	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
FRIDAY April 16	Starkville, FBC (Churches outside Golden Triangle & Winston Assoc.) Starkville, Calvary BC (Churches inside Golden Triangle & Winston Assoc.)	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
SATURDAY April 17	Clinton, FBC (Churches inside Metro, Rankin & Warren Assoc.) Brandon, FBC (Churches outside Metro, Rankin & Warren Assoc.)	1-3 p.m. 1-3 p.m.
MONDAY April 19	Meridian, Poplar Spgs Dr. BC Petal, Petal-Harvey BC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY April 20	Laurel, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m.



**1999 TOURNAMENTS**  
Saturday, April 24  
Alta Woods Baptist Church,  
Jackson, Miss.

Youth Speakers Tournament - 10 a.m.  
Youth Junior High Tournament - 1 p.m.

*Associations Bible Drill Packets will be mailed March 1 to churches, associations and individuals who requested them for the convention.*

## MISSISSIPPI'S GROWING DISCIPLES SEMINAR

Evangelism  
Mentoring  
Families  
in disciple making  
CHURCHES



**Monday and Tuesday, April 26 and 27**  
**First Baptist Church**  
**Ridgeland, MS 39157**  
**(601)856-6139**

### Program Personalities



**Bill Mitchell**  
Author of "Building  
Strong Families"

**Bill Easum**  
Author of "Growing  
Spiritual Redwoods," and  
"Sacred Cows Make  
Gourmet Burgers: Turning  
Members into Ministers"



**Bill Fay**  
Author of "Share  
Jesus Without Fear"

**Bob Biehl**  
Author of "Mentoring,"  
and "Wisdom for Men"



### Registration

#### Growing Disciples Seminar

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person's E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Number of People Coming from Your Church \_\_\_\_\_

Early Bird Prices: 2 days \$30, 1 day \$20. If registering after March 26, please add \$5 for late registration. Early Bird cut-off: March 26.

Ministers bringing three or more can register themselves free!

Choose your plan:

Early Bird, by March 26 (Total enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_)  
\_\_\_\_ Day One \_\_\_\_ Day Two \_\_\_\_ Day One and Two  
Late, after March 26 (Total enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_)  
\_\_\_\_ Day One \_\_\_\_ Day Two \_\_\_\_ Day One and Two  
\_\_\_\_ I am a minister bringing three or more, so there is no charge for me.

Mail to: MBCB, Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.,  
PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530  
For more info call: (601)968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

## 1999 LEGAL ISSUES AREA MEETINGS

*"keeping your church  
OUT of court"*



**APRIL 22 - GULF COAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OFFICE**  
**GULFPORT**

**APRIL 23 - CENTRAL BC, BROOKHAVEN**

**PURPOSE:** To provide information on how churches can carefully conduct their affairs under county, state and national laws and do so in a manner that provides some legal insulation from lawsuits.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** church business administrators, church staff, personnel committee members, finance committee members, church trustees, legal professionals dealing with issues concerning liabilities of churches and non-profit organizations.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$10 per conferee (includes lunch). The 154-page notebook "Keeping Your Church Out of Court" will be available for \$25.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:** William R. Korb, Jr., Sheila L. Korb, Michael V. Bourland, all attorneys with Bourland, Smith, Wall & Wenzel law firm in Fort Worth, Texas, and general counsel to Tarrant Baptist Association, Inc. and trust and estate counsel to Baylor University; William Townsend, assistant dean of the Mississippi College School of Law.

For more information, contact Matt Buckles, 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651



# Pray this day for...

March 12 - March 25, 1999

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Christ was born in the first century. yet he belongs to all centuries. He was born a Jew. yet he belongs to all races. He was born in Bethlehem. yet he belongs to all countries.

George W. Truett

Home Missions Day in Sunday School (SS Emphasis). Bruce Pearson is associational missionary for the Douglas and Siskiyou Baptist Associations in Roseburg, OR. Pray for three pastorless churches in the Siskiyou Association. Pray for a bivocational pastor who is in need of a job.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Each year alcohol becomes more of a threat to the American public. Drunk driving is the most frequently committed violent crime in the United States. Pray that the church will not keep silent on the issues of alcohol.

For WMU Annual Meeting, Morrison Hgts. BC, Clinton, featuring Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Rankin (WMU). Pray for Kay Cassibry as she participates in her first Mississippi WMU Annual Meeting as Executive Director.

For Smaller Church Sunday School/Discipleship Training Leadership Conference, FBC, Columbia/Morgantown BC, Natchez (Sunday School & Discipleship & Family Ministry).

A couple is going to Chengdu, China, to teach English at "University G" in March. Please pray for their adjustment and ministry.

For leadership for the 21st Century Conference, Baptist Building (Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries). Missionaries Roger and Kathy Sikes ask you to pray for the development of a local radio station which could make the Word of God available to the Agni people of Cote D'Ivoire.

Baptist representatives Donnie and Dimple Bond lead a Bible study on the grounds of the United Nations complex in Vienna, Austria. Pray for them as they teach this study and that many contacts will be made with employees who work there.

Pray for missionaries Bob and Peggy Mulkey who serve in Riobamba, Ecuador, as they have opportunities to counsel with deaf students and their families. Pray for the salvation of these students and lost family members.

In Central and Southern Asia, a country closed to a traditional gospel witness, has invited an agriculture team to come this spring and do a survey of four possible places for an agricultural experimental farm. Pray that even before they go, the Lord will begin to prepare and soften hearts, so that the authorities will be receptive to this project.

Several Mongolian Christians saw a need to have the "Experiencing God" study translated into their language. Give thanks to God that permission was received and a young, physically disabled woman is doing the work. Pray that she will translate the meaning correctly into Mongolian.

For Electronic Keyboard Workshop, Baptist Building (Church Music Dept.). For African American Church Leadership Institute, Mt Sinai BC, Tupelo (Mission Extension & Associational Administration). For the Marriage Enrichment Conference, Main St. BC, Hattiesburg (Discipleship & Family Ministry).

For Marriage Enrichment Conference, FBC, Tupelo (Equipment Team). For GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa (WMU). For State Youth Choir Festival, Paul Truitt Memorial BC, Pearl (Church Music).

A survey of 572 pastors in the United States reveals that 57% pray less than 20 minutes a day and 34% pray 20 minutes to an hour. In Korea pastors spend an average of 90 minutes a day in prayer. Pray that our pastors will feel the need to spend more time in prayer.

For the Evangelistic Rally for the Deaf, 38th Ave BC, Hattiesburg (Missions Extension & Associational Administration). For the Church Weekday Education Clinic, FBC, Starkville (Discipleship & Family Ministry).

## Professional Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat

April 29 - 30  
Patterson Place  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton



### Featuring:

**Pam Boucher** - Church Consultant for Ministers of Preschool/Children's Education in the Pastor-Staff Leadership department at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

**Jan Marler** - Preschool/Children's Specialist in Discipleship and Family at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

### Sponsored by:

Preschool/Children's Squad of the Equipping Team, made up of **Don Hicks, Robin Keels, and Linda Reeves.**

### Professional Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Day time phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 deposit/registration enclosed (includes 3 meals)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$40 enclosed for single occupancy room at Patterson Place  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 enclosed for double occupancy room at Patterson Place  
My roommate is: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed is for \$15 deposit + \$ \_\_\_\_\_ rooming fee = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total enclosed  
Checks should be made out to Miss. Baptist Convention Board. Please mail registration before April 2 to: Don Hicks, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

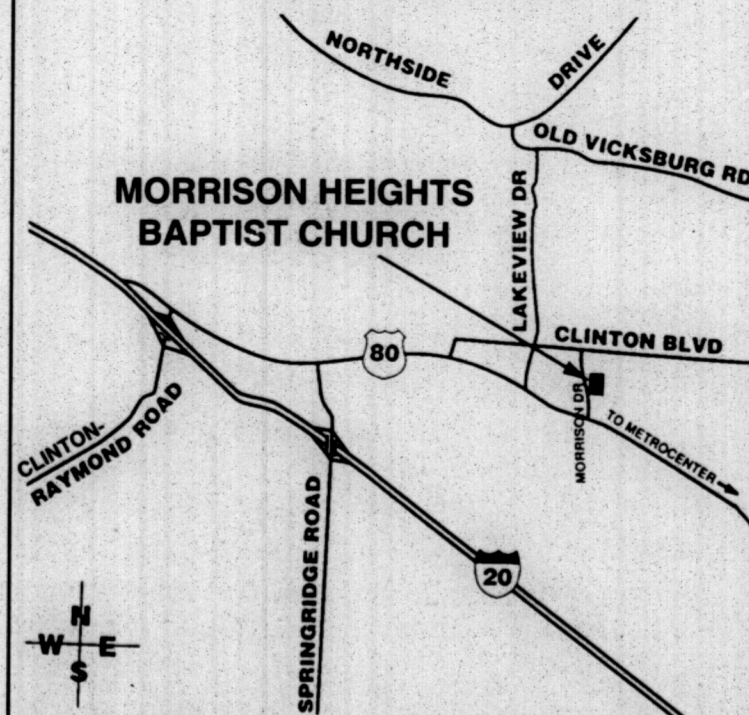
## WMU 120th ANNUAL MEETING

### MONDAY, MARCH 15

9:30-10:30 a.m. **Open House** at Patterson Place Lodge, Camp Garaywa  
10:30 a.m. **Dedication Service**, Camp Garaywa  
1:15 p.m. **Annual Meeting** begins at Morrison Heights BC, Clinton

### TUESDAY, MARCH 16

7:30 a.m. Former Executive Board Members **Breakfast**  
9 a.m. **Begin**  
2 p.m. **Prayer Walk** in area where Habitat Houses will be built July 11-17 (parking at Calvary Baptist Church)





# Mississippi CBF names trio of consultants

JACKSON, Miss. (Special) — The administrative committee of the Mississippi Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (MCBF) has named three part-time consultants to help the statewide Baptist organization in public relations, networking, spiritual growth and ministry resources.

"We are really excited that these consultants are joining MCBF to give us professional assistance in their areas of expertise," said Bradley Pope of Clinton, MCBF state coordinator.

The three new consultants are:

◆ Stan Rushing of Clinton, recently retired chaplain at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He will



Rushing

serve as spiritual growth and ministry resource consultant.

◆ Jim Newton of Clinton, recently retired international communications and media relations director for World Vision in Los Angeles. He will serve as public relations consultant.

◆ Steve Street of Jackson, bivocational pastor of Rivercrest Fellowship and owner of Omega Auto Glass in Jackson. He will serve as networking consultant.

The appointments were effective March 1.

Rushing will consult with churches, pastors, and staff in times of crisis. He also will plan and facilitate retreats and other meetings which will encourage spiritual growth

and enhance ministry skills among pastors, church staff, and others.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College with bachelor and masters degrees, and earned the doctor of theology degree at New Orleans Seminary.

Newton, 63, a native of Texas who retired recently in Clinton, is a long-time professional in Baptist communications. Before joining the World Vision international staff in 1991, he was public relations director for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home Mission Board in Atlanta; editor of World Mission Journal published by the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis; assistant director of Baptist



Street

Press; and press representative for Texas Baptists.

In his role as public relations consultant, Newton will work with the MCBF communications committee on public relations issues, and will edit the Mississippi CBF Newsletter. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Street, 38, a native of Columbus, has also been a youth and singles minister.

In his role as networking consultant for MCBF, Street will work with MCBF committees responsible for geographic group meetings in Mississippi, develop extensive networks with various groups involved in MCBF, and develop plans for involving lay people in MCBF life.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary, and has completed his dissertation for a doctor of ministry degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

## Hendricks to retire in Aug.

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — Longtime Baptist educator William Hendricks has announced he will retire at the end of August as director of the Baptist Studies Program at Texas Christian University's Brite Divinity School.

Hendricks was named to the post in 1995. He also is a lecturer in theology at the school in Fort Worth, Texas, which is affiliated with the 910,000-member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.)

In a teaching career spanning nearly four decades, Hendricks taught theology 10 years at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., before retiring in 1995; 20 years at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth; and five years at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Join us at Ridgcrest for a wonderful time

## 1999 Annuitant Conference

**Ridgcrest Baptist Conference Center**

**April 26-30, 1999**

For retired ministers, church and denominational employees, spouses and widows. To register, call **800-588-7222**.



**ANNUITY BOARD**  
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



## STAFF CHANGES

**R. Bruce Hardy**, formerly of Columbus, has accepted the position of associate minister of music at First Church, Snellville, Ga. James Merritt is pastor of First Church.



Hardy

**North McComb Church, McComb**, has called **Chris Marengo** as minister of music

and youth effective Dec. 20. A native of Gulfport, Marengo received his education at Clarke College and Blue Mountain College. His previous places of service were Northside Church, Baker, La.; Slayden Church, Marshall County; and Toomsba Church, Lauderdale County.

**Sardis Church, Morton**, recently called **John Clifton Purvis** as pastor effective Jan. 17. His previous place of service was Rena Lara Church in

North Delta Association. Purvis received his education at New Orleans Seminary.

**South McComb Church, McComb**, has called **Stephanie Bowlin** as minister of music effective Jan. 13. A native of Meadville, Bowlin received her education at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her previous place of service was Carmel Church, Monticello.

**Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport**, has called **Bill Safley** as pastor effective Feb. 21. He is

a native of Jackson. Safley has been on staff at Michael Memorial Church for three years as administrator/associate pastor and served as interim pastor for one year. He is a retired heart surgeon.



Safley



### CHURCH BUSES

#1 MANUFACTURER  
COMPETITIVE PRICING

**SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.**

CLINTON, MS

1-800-423-9826

1-601-924-1982

ALL SIZES  
SALES AND RENTALS

### Are you paying too much for your Medical Insurance or Prescription Drugs? If yes, Call Today!

#### ☐ Major Hospital & Surgical Plan

Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Ambulance.

#### ☐ Medicare Supplement

Ages 65 and over. Low Rates!

#### ☐ Prescription Drug Plan

You Pay: \$10.00 for Generic  
\$20.00 for Name Brand  
Drug Plan pays the rest up to a maximum benefit of \$5,000 per family per year.

Honored at Walmart, Freds, Super D and many more!

**NO WAITING PERIOD...GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE**

Call today for free information:

**E.F. Hutton Insurance Marketing**

PO Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047

**1-800-880-2305**

☐ Medicare Supplement under age 65



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Raymond Road Church, Metro Association**, distributed approximately 500 "JESUS" tapes to surrounding neighborhoods in December. A group will travel to Salisbury, Maryland, in July to help Harvest Church distribute about 2,000 of these "JESUS" tapes in the Salisbury communities. Harvest and Raymond Road churches formed a four-year partnership in April 1998.

**Camp Lakeside**, located in Tallahatchie County and operated by the North Central Association, recently presented a plaque to Ramona Adams in honor of her work and dedication as the camp's treasurer. Three hundred dollars was

also placed into the camp's building fund in her honor. Truman Scarborough, director of missions, presented the plaque to Adams. Call the camp at (601) 647-2834 for additional information on the dates for summer camp.



Adams and Scarborough



**Freedom Church, Laurel**, held ground breaking ceremonies for a new multi-purpose building on Jan. 31. The picture includes member of the long range planning committee, building committee, and deacons. Robby Johnson is pastor.

**Iglesia El Buen Pastor, Forest**, held dedication services for its new building on Feb. 14. The building has been built within the last one and one half years. It has been a joint venture of Iglesia El Buen Pastor (Church of the Good Shepherd), Sebastopol Church, Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the churches of Scott Baptist Association. The building was built by volunteer labor at a cost of \$143,999.50. Jose Lopez (pictured) is pastor.



**Ivan Parker**, Gospel Music Dove Award winner, will be in concert at Calvary Church, West Point, on March 14. For more information call (601) 494-4421.

**Calvary Church, New Augusta**, will host Terry Joe

**Lopez** Terrell in concert on March 13 at 7 p.m. The annual Turner Memorial Day with dinner on the grounds and singing will be held on March 14.



**Friendship Church, Pontotoc Association**, recently held its GA and Acteen Recognition Service with the theme "Letting your Light Shine." Pictured (from left, first row) are Ashley Russell, crown bearer; Jennie Graves, GA; Lauren Treadaway, scepter bearer; Taylor Laney, crown bearer; Anna Claire Flake, GA. (second row) Myrl Tutor, Acteen charge; April Bramlitt, queen; Allison Shumaker, GA; Melissa Powell, queen; Carrie Ann Bramlitt, queen with scepter; Kay Nowlin, GA charge. Betty Stewart is GA leader, Jackie Reeves and Synthia Bramlitt are Acteen leaders.

## "AN EVENING WITH STEVE GREEN"

Friday, March 19.  
7:00 p.m.

**First Baptist Church, Jackson**  
\$10.00 Adults - \$12.00 at door  
\$5.00 for Children

(12 years and under)

For further information call 949-1900

Sponsored by the Young Married Adult Ministry at FBCJ.

**Custom Church Interiors**

Schedule a meeting today, at no obligation, to discuss your renovation needs.

1 800 654 1294

## Renovate Now!

Let Custom Church Interiors assist your church in updating its facilities for ministry in the new millenium. We handle all details by providing these services:

- Architectural Design
- Interior Color-Styling
- Construction
- Furnishings



## KJV PURPOSE REVIEWED

Editor:

I wish to humbly tender a response to Ken Ellzy's letter published in the Feb. 25 issue of The Baptist Record. I would encourage all believers to read the Preface of the King James Bible, entitled "The Translators to the Readers." In it the translators reveal their methods and purpose for their effort:

*"But we desire that the Scripture may speak like itself, as in the language of Canaan, that it may be understood even of the very vulgar."*

Brothers, the stated purpose of the men who did the work was to provide a version readable by the average person of that day. In their discourse, they make reference to the "tongue-lashings" they will surely receive from the Church in Rome and other learned religious men, because they are presenting a new modern translation that would replace cherished translations 500-1500 years old. Are we not hearing the same things today?

I cannot find mention of the Office of the Pope being the Antichrist in my Bibles. I praise God that I do not know Antichrist, as I believe Scripture teaches a pre-tribulation Rapture.

It is sin, and sin alone, that represents compromise with the world. My sin nailed Jesus to Calvary; his love for me, kept him there. He has given me such a love for his Word, that I use several versions, including the KJV, in my study. Man's most monumental task

appears to be putting the thoughts of Almighty God on paper. The KJV translators and others have done well under the guidance of the author.

Robert Lightsey  
Laurel

## CHRISTIANS NEED KJV

Editor:

I want to commend Ken Ellzy for the stand he took for the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. I wholeheartedly agree that this is the version that Christians need, because I believe it is the closest to the words penned by holy men of old, as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write God's Word to the people of that day as well as today's Christians.

Many dear souls do not understand that many translations acutely change or pervert the meaning of the Scripture, and that is wrong (Rev. 22:19). I believe most translators tried to translate accurately but you will see that evidently some translators include unbelieving men with presuppositions contrary to the essentials of the Christian faith and the infallible inspiration of the Scriptures in the original manuscripts. May I add that the Baptists, as well as any others, do not understand this. I am simply saying that any translation which is acutely a paraphrase, and where the translators add content and words that are not in the original manuscript is not a reliable translation. It is called a free translation, and sometimes dulls or even perverts the meaning.

The simple and plain truth is that no Christian, not even the wisest and best saint in the world, can understand everything in the Bible. "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God." God said it, I believe it, and that settles it for me.

Herbert Holt  
Bartahatchie Church,  
Caledonia

## KJV VERSION CLARIFIED

Editor:

Two weeks ago a Christian brother from Mendenhall wrote instructing us that we need to get our act together as Christians. Unfortunately he had to add that we needed to return to the King James Bible. I have a copy of the original KJV of 1611 — John 3:16 reads:

*"For God so loved y world, that he gave his only begotten sonne: that whosoever beleueeth in him, should not perish, but haue everlasting life."*

The verse is easily deciphered because it is well known, but the rest might be a little harder to read. The KJV of 1611 also has the Apocrypha because it was translated by Anglicans who refused to translate "baptizo" as "immerse" because they didn't practice immersion baptism.

The brother from Mendenhall is reading the eighth revision of the KJV of 1611. He should clarify what he wants and learn some history along the way!

Ed Williamson  
U.S. Army chaplain  
Fort Carson, Colo.

## LETTER WAS OFFENSIVE

Editor:

Your "Return to KJV" letter to the editor in the Feb. 25 issue was offensive to Christian education. Waiting until I was 37 years old, I entered William Carey College to receive a Christian education and prepare for the ministry. Graduating with a degree in the Bible and religious education, I have served Jesus Christ faithfully for 31 years.

Should I now be ashamed of my education now and "return to basics" since I was taught to read and interpret the Greek text of the New Testament? I have trouble even imagining a Christian translating the Bible today with the purpose of "causing problems in the church."

After seeing that First Church, Jackson, used NIV pew Bibles, I encouraged our rural church to obtain NIV pew Bibles. It is my joy to preach from the vernacular of the 20th century that is understood by everyone.

I was also shocked to read the reference to "Antichrist" and the largest body of Christians in the world. Roman Catholicism may have some problems, but they advocate the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Please recognize the consequences of some statements contained in your published letters.

Ken Gower, pastor  
Harmony Church, Cruger

## ASSOC. PASTOR SOUGHT

Editor:

Heritage Baptist Church is seeking individuals to serve as associate pastor/music and as associate pastor/youth. The church is open to calling one person to fulfill both roles as a full-time associate pastor or to calling two separate individuals to serve in these positions. Send a copy of your resume to:

Attn: Bill King, chairman  
Personnel Committee  
Heritage Baptist Church  
4808 Palmer Park Blvd.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80915

## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**A SMALL BUT DYNAMIC SBC CHURCH** in the Raymond area is seeking someone who is bi-vocational or a student to lead in the development of ministries in music, youth and children. Strong lay leadership will assist. The church has a wonderful and loving fellowship which is centered in strong Bible teaching. Please call: 857-3138 or 885-2002.

**A GROWING EVANGELICAL CHURCH** is seeking a full-time youth/music minister. Housing provided. Send resume to: Philadelphia Baptist Church, 3646 Hwy 550 N.W., Wesson, MS 39191.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC:** First Baptist Church of Fannin is searching to fill this part time position. A great opportunity near the reservoir. Send resumes to Search Committee, FBC of Fannin, 101 Church Rd., Brandon, MS 39047.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. **ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.**

**PASSENGER VANS FOR** private and church groups. From \$59.95 per day/ limited free miles/7 to 15-seat. Occasionally for sale: quality used vans. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson, (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**GROWING 5,000 MEMBER CHURCH** in Georgia is adding to their ministerial staff and accepting applications for the following positions: minister of education, minister of administration, minister to college, minister to singles, minister to middle school, orchestra director, and ladies' counselor. For more information or to send a recommendation, contact Christy Murphy, Cascade Hills Baptist Church, 727 54th Street, Columbus, GA 31904 or call Rick Milner at (706) 327-5743, ext 18.

**WANTED: MISSIONARY-MINDED** couple to serve the Lord in a home caring for children needing a place to live. This evangelical organization has been meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children for 103 years. Not a behavior modification facility. Competitive salary and other compensations which include housing, food, insurance, and retirement. Call Mr. Taylor at Palmer Home for Children (601) 328-5216.

**EXCITING, DYNAMIC YOUTH PASTOR** looking for a full time position. Call, e mail or write for more information. Phone 228-769-6281, e mail shawndp@earthlink.com Shawn Panni, 809 Seacove, Pascagoula, MS 39581-2126.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAPLACE, LOUISIANA** is searching for an Interim minister of music to direct the adult choir on Wednesday nights and serve as music worship leader for both Sunday services. For details, contact Rev. Major Speights at (504) 652-6219 or Teri Noel at (504) 652-1816. Fax resumes to (504) 652-5136.

**BRANSON, MO CONDO** sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th night free or stay 5 nights and get 2 extra nights free. Free in house coffee and tea. \$100.00 daily inc. tax. Register for free return trip and 3 king quilts. (601) 746-4632.

**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS** windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. 1-800-605-2970.

**A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION?** Laser Zone, "Mississippi's Largest Laser Tag Arena". Group rates, lock-ins. Video arcade, snack bar. Alcohol and smoke-free. Children, youth, adults. Brandon, MS (601) 992-8004.

**GROUPS — CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT.** Eureka Springs, Ark, for front seats at The Great Passion Play, plus lodging, recreation, and meals, all for just \$35.00 each! Free information - (501) 253-8418.

**GATLINBURG RENTAL SPECIAL** Incredible week-day savings on 6BR/7BA lodge facing 50 foot mesmerizing waterfall! Was rented during Thanksgiving 1998 for \$750 per night. For details on \$250 per night special, call Christian owner (800) 538-6126. Weekends also available at reasonable rates. www.paradisefalls.com.

**WALTON COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** in Northwest Florida is seeking a Director of Missions for the Walton County Association, Defuniak Springs, Fla. Please send resumes by March 8, 1999 to Rev. Mike McVay, Chairman DOM Search Committee, P O Box 2005, Red Bay, FL 32455.

**CFI — PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & AL. 1-800-830-0583.

**TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH** has 5 pews (12 - 44 feet) for sale. We are asking \$125 each. Call (601) 346-0362 for information.

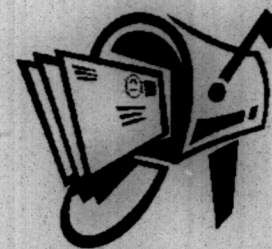
**FOR SALE:** Hammond Organ Mill Spinnet. Real good condition. New Leslie speaker #145. If interested, call (228) 475-9697.

**BELLE CHASSE, LA — FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** full-time minister of music/youth; send resumes to: Search Committee, 8828 Hwy 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037.

**FERRIDAY — FIRST CHURCH:** full-time minister of music; send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, P.O. Box 386, Ferriday, LA 71334.

**YOUTH OUTINGS?** Outdoor paintball games! Year-round! 10 years experience. Book yours today! Curry Creek Outdoors, 1161 Old Hwy 49, Seminary, MS 39479. (601) 722-9000.

**INTERIOR ELEMENTS STAINED GLASS STUDIO:** Windows for church or home, Allied Member American Society of Interior Designers, Columbus, (601) 328-1899.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## Correction

Caley Ray Nichols was stated in error as the pastor of Highland Church, Vicksburg, in the issue of March 4. He served as interim pastor at Highland Church from Dec. 1993 to June 1995.



# Ethiopian dreams new dream of life in Christ



## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP) — As a child, Elias Ersedo woke up in the mornings, not to the sound of an alarm clock, but to the howl of hyenas.

Instead of curing his morning hunger pains with a bowl of cereal and a glass of orange juice, Elias would hope somebody threw away enough table scrapings that he could piece together a meal.

For many years, the garbage dump in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was Elias' home away from home. His parents couldn't afford all eight of their children, so 8-year-old Elias tried to become self-sufficient.

Both of his parents had leprosy — a disease that infects 400 million people worldwide, 90% of them in underdeveloped countries such as Ethiopia.

Ersedo was among the poorest of the poor in a country where the average wage is estimated to be \$150 a year. Ersedo lived way below that total.

"I ate what people threw away — leftovers from the hotel, airlines, or hospitals mainly," he said.

When everything else in his life seemed hopeless, Ersedo met Jesus.

Christ's calling on his life began several years ago when he dreamed Satan was choking him.

In his dream, he remembered something he had seen in a church service when he was a boy, and he told Satan to leave in Jesus' name.

Ersedo remembers Satan asking him, "Where do you know this name?" Finally Ersedo admitted he didn't know this name and Satan relented.

Ersedo's life got worse instead of getting better.

"When I didn't have any money, I would beat people and take it from them," he said.

Last spring Ersedo met Ngosh Gameda, an Ethiopian believer. Gameda, who works with Southern Baptist personnel in Ethiopia, built a relationship with Ersedo and shared the gospel with him.

"There was something disturbing me from the inside but I wondered why God would want me. I'm such a miserable guy," Ersedo said.

That's when Ersedo accepted God's free gift of salvation.

"God has given me peace; things don't bother me like they did before," he said.

Ersedo then moved back in with his parents and helps support them.

"I'm a child of God and a child of my parents too," he said. "I felt like I should help them."

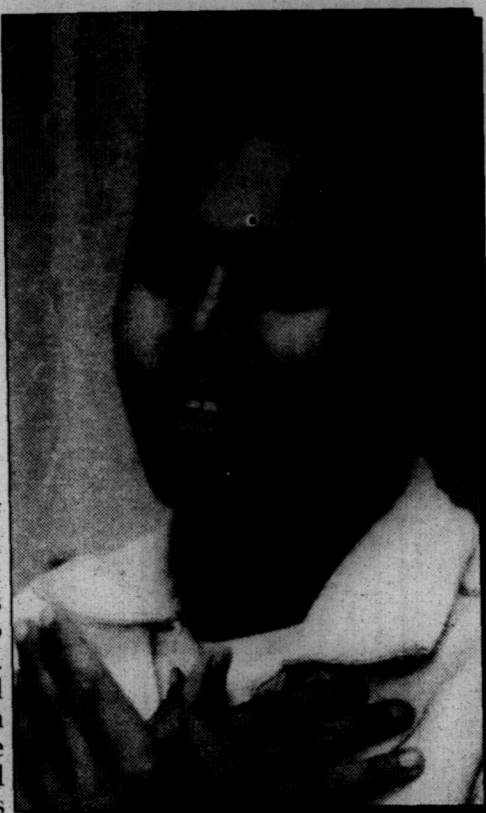
By reaching Ethiopians like Ersedo in Addis Ababa, Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians

take the gospel into northern Ethiopia and surrounding countries — places where the gospel is not often proclaimed. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, is one of 100 cities that the AD 2000 organization has designated as a "Gateway City."

Every ethnic people group in Ethiopia is represented in Addis Ababa, and the city is a strategic link to neighboring Muslim countries such as Sudan.

Recognizing God's desire for the good news of salvation to be spread across the region, Southern Baptist representatives opened the Leadership Training Center in Ethiopia.

There they train national Christians to preach in Addis Ababa, in a hope that by bringing revival there the gospel's effects might reach far beyond the city's boundaries.



Ersedo

BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL presents on March 15-16, 1999

A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON

## "Preaching and the Renewal of the Church"

Beeson Divinity Chapel - Samford University - Birmingham, Alabama  
\$35 per person (includes lunch; reservations required)



Calvin MILLER  
BEESON  
DIVINITY SCHOOL  
Birmingham,  
Alabama



Timothy GEORGE  
BEESON  
DIVINITY SCHOOL  
Birmingham,  
Alabama



Robert SMITH  
BEESON  
DIVINITY SCHOOL  
Birmingham,  
Alabama



David HANSEN  
BELGRADE  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
Belgrade, Montana



Mark DEVER  
CAPITOL  
HILL BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
Washington, D.C.



Bruce WINTER  
TYNDALE  
HOUSE  
Cambridge,  
England

### PLENARY SESSIONS

Will be led by CALVIN MILLER, TIMOTHY GEORGE, ROBERT SMITH and MARK DEVER.

### WORKSHOPS

BRUCE WINTER, "Countering the Subliminal Secularization of the Church"  
DAVID HANSEN, "The Power of Loving Your Church"  
MARK DEVER, "Nine Marks of a Healthy Church"

For more information about the speakers and conference or to register, call Lyn Boyer at 1-800-888-8266.



SAMFORD UNIVERSITY  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35229-2252  
(205) 870-2991  
<http://beeson.samford.edu>

Beeson is affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals and is accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin.

## Child care registration opens for SBC annual meeting in Atlanta

ATLANTA (BP) — Registration is now being accepted for on-site child care for preschool children of out-of-town messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 15-16 in Atlanta.

A registration form is available by writing to: SBC Preschool Child Care, c/o Rockdale Baptist Church, 1295 Smyrna Road, Conyers, GA 30094.

Child care is available for preschoolers (birth through 5 years of age — those in kindergarten), according to Anna Lee Blancato, SBC child-care coordinator from First Church, Smyrna.

Blancato urged messengers

to return the application form (completely filled out) as soon as possible to "assure a place for your child."

Cost of child care is \$5 per session per child, one-half the cost of previous SBC meetings. Preschool child care will be in the World Congress Center, next to the Georgia Dome, site of the SBC meeting.



**GREECE '99**

June 1-14, 1999

Classical and Biblical Greece  
Cruise to Islands and Turkey

Archaeological Discovery  
Cultural Understanding  
Spiritual Inspiration

Dr. Roger Greene, Host  
Box 1105, Clinton, MS 39060  
(601) 924-5403  
E-Mail [GreeneBWE@aol.com](mailto:GreeneBWE@aol.com)

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.



Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622  
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!



## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Bear witness

John 1:19-34

By Beth W. Cape

John the Baptist had exciting news. It was something new and different, news for which people had been waiting a long, long time. People went out from town to hear the message from this man who ate locusts and honey. He was even clothed in animal skins. How strange! Even the priests and Levites couldn't wait to ask him, "Who are you?"

Before John answered that question, he first told them who he was not. He answered that he was not the Christ and then that he was not Elijah and not The Prophet. He said he

was, "...A voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

In those days roads were not very good, so if a king was coming to visit a town, the town prepared by straightening the road. John came to tell people about the coming king. What exciting news!

What exciting news do you have today? Later today I'm going to my book club meeting. This is a group of ladies that I've met with weekly for the past seven years. Though most of our time is spent talking about the book we've all read, we often share exciting news in



Cape

our lives. Today I was thinking about what I might tell them when they ask how things are going. My most exciting news is that after seven years of diapers, my "baby" is now potty trained! Praise God for the everyday joys that he gives us in our lives.

It's easy and natural for us to share exciting news with others. Why is it sometimes so hard for us to "witness"—to share the exciting news of Christ and what he is doing in our lives?

Like the people asked John the Baptist, I ask you: Who are you? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of the Almighty God? Is that same Jesus your Savior and Lord? Do you believe in his power to do anything in your life? If not, then you don't know him well enough. Maybe you've

just forgotten. It's easy to forget in our world which is so crowded with everything but God.

If we really believe that God is God and all that that means, we must live that way. We must find the time to pray and to study his word. I've always heard the saying, "We make time for things we really want to do."

There's a verse that I often quote to myself: "For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). Many times I've claimed this verse as I've been led to do things that I didn't want to do. "Lord, you said you would give me the will to do it. If you'll make me want to, I'll do it." It really works!

How long has it been since you've shared your faith with someone? Remember that you share your faith (or lack of it) every day whether you are aware of it or not. There's a

story I once heard about Saint Francis of Assisi who invited a young monk to accompany him to town to preach. The novice was honored at the opportunity. The two set out for the city then walked up and down the main street, then several side streets. They chatted with peddlers and greeted the citizens. After some time they returned by another route to the abbey. The younger man reminded Francis of his original intent. "You have forgotten, Father, that we went to town to preach."

"My son," he replied, "we have preached. We have been seen by many. Our behavior was closely watched. Our attitudes were closely measured. Our words have been overheard. It was by thus that we preached our morning sermon."

Cape is director of children and family ministry at First Church, Picayune.

## LIFE AND WORK

### Paying the price

Mark 10:17-31

By Doug Bain

"If the prices are not listed on the menu, you may not want to ask!" We are, however, price conscious. And yet, many people contemplate Christianity unaware of the cost required in following Jesus once one is a true believer. Clarence Jordan reportedly told his attorney brother who refused a case involving racial justice, "You need to go back to our boyhood church and tell the preacher man that you have changed your mind. You don't really want to 'follow Jesus' after all. You just want to admire him." Following Jesus in discipleship is indeed a bold venture!

A matter of treasure (vv. 17-

21). The young man's question about inheriting eternal life was apparently sincere, and he did get the "inherit" part correct. Yet his question contained an inherent conflict "what must I do?" Jesus' initial response framed the rest of his answer: "are you acknowledging me as Lord?" This is the initial question for each of us.

Jesus' next response may catch us off guard: "keep the commandments and eternal life is yours," but that is why we need a Savior — "no not one" can possibly do that. The young man said, "All these I have kept." Jesus' response in v. 21 revealed the young man had



Bain

missed at least two of them. He had not reassured God above all else and he had lied about keeping them all.

Jesus indicated that the one thing he had not done had kept him away from life. He had not treasured God alone above all else. He was, therefore, doing religion in his own way. That had separated him from God. Bold discipleship calls for perceptive honesty about treasuring God above all else.

Entering kingdom gates (vv. 22-25). The young man's "face fell" because he saw the conflict in his values and he fell before the challenge. He would not relinquish either his great wealth or his own way of doing religion. Jesus took that opportunity to sound a warning about affluence. The text suggests to us that when we expect to enjoy all the privileges of contemporary consumeristic culture and also the

status benefits of Christianity, we are totally unaware of the value conflict. Responding to amazed inquirers, Jesus might say today, "The largest vehicle in the convoy could get through the smallest fiber optic passage more easily than self-sufficient affluence can enter kingdom gates." Values in conflict! Costly discipleship! We are all affluent.

Only on God's terms (vv. 26-27). The disciples, as do we, registered yet more amazement. Jesus persisted in violating their standards, as he does ours. If those with affluence and who abide by all the "religious rules" are actually moving away from the kingdom, who can possibly ever make it?

As Jesus contradicts our expectations, he responds to our amazement simply: being saved is always and only on God's terms. Only as we trust absolutely God's provision through Jesus can we be saved, enter the kingdom, and be disciples.

A promise for bold disciples (vv. 28-31). Peter responded in pride, unaware that, once again, he had missed the point.

"Look at us, look what we have done." Jesus suggested that they will be rewarded who truly leave all because of choices which grow from absolute trust in God. Those who, like Adam, grasp for significance and status, end up last. Those who do not posture themselves into prominence, but faithfully follow the Suffering Servant, receive their significance and status from God.

Bold discipleship runs counter to the life that is traced out for us by society's value patterns, expectation levels, and moral horizons. Bold discipleship surrenders "in Adam" patterns, receiving the gift of being "in Christ Jesus," following him as Lord.

Bain is chairman and professor of the Biblical Division at Blue Mountain College.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Praise to the Creator

Psalms 8:1-9

By Ken Hester

This month people will clamor for seats and sacrificially give of their time and money just to experience the thrill — not of worship services — but college basketball. Sports' analysts will expound upon the greatness of players, teams, coaches, schools, and fans. As thrilling as March Madness is, it pales in comparison to the actual worth of our Lord. Too often, we get distracted from the truly significant by the deceptively loud.

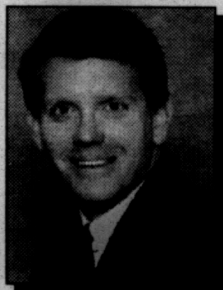
Psalms 8 is a hymn of joy. As David pondered the greatness of God, he could not contain his adoration in private devotions. This song of God's greatness must be shared with all who worship him.

God's greatness is explosive (8:1a).

David began his adoration calling on the total character of God by using God's personal name. Having the word "LORD," in all capital letters, signals to the English reader that the Hebrew writer used the proper name of God, Yahweh. The Hebrews thought the vocalization of someone's name was an intimate gesture.

This thinking, coupled with their thoughts about the name of God being holy, forbade the reader to read "Yahweh" aloud. Instead, they spoke the word "Lord," keeping it in capital letters for the readers to understand the difference.

David's second use of the



Hester

word "Lord," in lower case letters, declares his personal submission to the great God. The explosive nature of God's greatness frames both ends of this psalm. (8:9)

God's greatness is expansive (8:1b-2).

David not only recognized God's excellent majesty in the world, but also beyond the heavens. When I begin to dwell on the greatness of God, my mind first is awed by his creativity in nature. Then my mind pushes upward to the heavens. God's infinite greatness, however, goes beyond the heavens. God's expansive greatness staggers the complex mind and can only truly be grasped in simple, child-like faith.

God's greatness is exhilarating. Humanity is uplifted when we dwell on the greatness of God. His greatness elevates us to be and do what God intended for us to do at creation. His activity in our lives honors us.

We are honored by God's attention (8:3-5). God gives his attention to the place of humanity. In verse three, we see David's theological concepts as he looked at the night sky.

During the day, a shepherd's activity kept him busy and focused on sheep. The night, however, brought a stillness for one to think higher notions. Looking at the constellations, David realized that those were the work of God and belonged to him.

God also gives his attention to the pity of humanity. In verse four, David used the Hebrew word "enosh" to describe man as feeble and frail, rather than the other Hebrew word describing man's power and strength.

God's visiting feeble man was not to inflict punishment which is sometimes the case of God's visitation in other Old Testament passages. In this passage, "visit" is used to show how God comes to man

to show mercy, to deliver, and to bless.

God also gives his attention to the position of humanity. Henry Melvill in 1854 once wrote, "It is a mysterious thing, ...that there has arisen a Redeemer of fallen men, but not of fallen angels." God has given us a grand position and a grand assignment.

We are honored by God's assignment (8:6-8). Joseph Hall, Bishop of Norwich, 1574-1656, once wrote, "But, O God, what a little lord hast thou made over this great world!" Verse six reminds us that our divine assignment is to be good stewards of the divine work of God. This assignment covers land (8:7), air (8:8a), and sea (8:8b).

God's greatness compared with humanity's feebleness can only evoke our praise of the Most High. "O LORD our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth!"

Hester is pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee.



# Neighbor's revival invitation sparks family

SALT LAKE CITY — Herb Stoneman doesn't hesitate to sing the praises of well-planned revival services.

As a pastor and denominational evangelism leader he's seen plenty of successes, to be sure. But one source of Stoneman's passion goes back to his childhood, when a neighbor invited the family to "pack-a-pew" night at a local church's revival.

His father accepted Christ that night, sparking a move of God that changed the entire family forever, and, in turn, the lives of thousands who found Christ through

their combined ministries.

"I've often wondered what would have happened if the Willeys (the neighbor family) had said, 'Well, those people have no interest in Christ, their lives are not worth messing with,'" he said. "You have to thank the Lord for people who are just bold enough to invite somebody to go to church with them."

As evangelism consultant for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptists, it is Stoneman's task to help 152 churches and missions share his passion for seeing the lost come to Christ. He and his wife, Jeanette, are among the missionaries featured in this year's Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 7-14.

The Week of Prayer is part of the Season of North American Missions, which includes the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with a national goal for 1999 of \$45 million and a challenge goal of \$50 million.

When Stoneman's father accepted Christ, their lives changed completely, Stoneman said. His father, an unskilled laborer, eventually became an engineer. And in the process the family became aggressive in helping start new churches wherever they lived. His own call to the ministry came at the age of 16, at a missions conference in Grand Junction, Colo.

Initially discouraged from the preaching ministry by a trusted pastor, Stoneman spent several years in part-time music ministry. But while pursuing a career in retail sales he finally surren-

dered to his original call at 22. He served as a pastor on the Gila River Indian Reservation near Phoenix and in White Tanks, Ariz.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Vernal Utah; and Idaho Falls, Idaho; before accepting his current position in 1994.

Throughout his ministry Stoneman has learned to deal with what he calls the "Ya'll Come Yo-Yo" so prevalent in Southern Baptist churches outside the South.

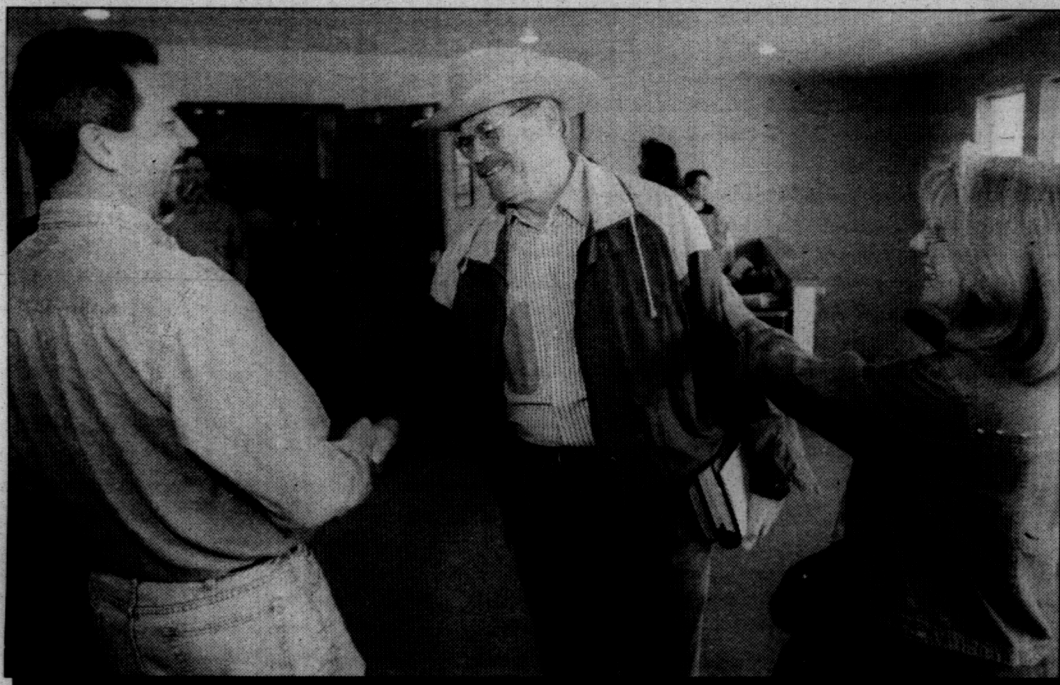
"Maybe it happens in other places, but out here there's a tendency to feel like it's impossible to reach the indigenous community, so the effort is on finding people that look like us, talk like us, and think like us," he said.

The problem comes when the economy shifts and those from outside are the first to leave making it difficult for the small churches to even survive - much less to be effective at reaching the people around them.

"The heartbeat of the community is not their heartbeat," Stoneman said. The church declines, only to "yo-yo" back to survival status with the next economic upturn.

"So we have to learn how as churches out here to pierce the heart of our community and win the people who are indigenous to our communities to Christ, and build churches that are not fortresses but rather are groups knocking down the fortresses that surround them," he said.

"The fields are white unto harvest here," he added. "We just need some more harvesters."



ON THE ROAD — While a home office is his headquarters, missionary Herb Stoneman spends much of his time on the road helping churches reach the communities around them with the gospel. Stoneman is evangelism consultant for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. (Photo by James Dotson)

## Canada student minister sees opportunities abound

CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA — On a campus where Olympic-bound athletes come to study and train and where "extreme sports" such as hang-gliding and mountain climbing are taught, Mel Cruikshank ministers as part of Baptist Student Ministries (BSM).

He and his wife, Marybelle, are among the missionaries featured in this year's Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 7-14. The Week of Prayer is part of the Season of North American Missions, which also includes the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with a national goal for 1999 of \$45 million and a challenge goal of \$50 million.

Unlike many of his Baptist campus minister colleagues in the United States, Cruikshank (pronounced CROOK-shank) does not have a ready pool of Baptists to involve in Bible studies or worship.

Although exact figures are impossible to obtain, Cruikshank estimates that out of 25,000 students, "Maybe 100 to 150 are affiliated with the Baptist faith. And of that number, 50 to 75 are active in a Baptist church."

"Over half of the students active in our BSM are not Baptists, and we always have members who aren't Christians," he said.

One of Cruikshank's joys is helping non-Christians come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Last fall a young man whose family is from Hong Kong and who had a nominal Christian background expressed his feelings of emptiness and stress. Cruikshank led him to the Lord and is now discipling him in a study of the book of John.

Cruikshank notes that often BSM students themselves lead their friends to the Lord. "Students usually don't respond to Christ through impersonal approaches. They are far more likely to be interested in Christ because of

friendships," he said.

Last year BSM members took a survey, asking what were the most important needs of U of C students. When they learned that time management and finding the meaning and purpose of life were high on the list, they asked guest speakers to address these needs.

The BSM has Bible studies, one led by a member of Calgary Chinese Baptist Church. Another Bible study is led by the minister to students of Trinity Baptist Church. Some students

have made a commitment to Cross-seekers, a covenant which students make to live a committed Christian life.

They have a praise and worship time called "Oasis" each Tuesday and on Thursday "Crossroads Cafe", a drop-in sandwich lunch which costs a toonie (two-dollar coin).

Cruikshank's commitment to Baptist Student Ministries and the hope of reaching students for Jesus Christ comes naturally. He became a Christian through BSM while attending the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Marybelle also became a Christian through BSM in Edmonton and takes an active part in many BSM events. She helps him with marriage counseling, an important ministry since he performs many weddings.

Of the many rewards in BSM work, Cruikshank says one of the greatest is seeing students respond to the call to full-time ministry.

Some of his students are now attending the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in nearby Cochrane, Alberta. He also enjoys the variety in his ministry.

"No two years are the same," he said. "BSM is a challenge. When I see where students are now in the Christian faith and where they were at the beginning, I have hope for the future."



ON CAMPUS — North American missionary Mel Cruikshank ministers at the University of Calgary, Alberta, as a Baptist campus minister. He talks with students at an information booth set up during a new student orientation to acquaint them with campus activities. Alongside 130 other clubs such as the Turkish Club and the Rodeo Club, Cruikshank has a booth with information about Bible studies and other activities. BSM attracts students — not thousands, but dozens — one at a time. (Photo by Dave Olecko)

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
Copyright 1998

ZK NRS JSYZKKZKY HET  
NRS HMAL, EKL NRS  
HMAL HET HZNR YML,  
EKL NRS HMAL HET YML.

WMRK MKS: MKS

Clue: E = A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis One: One.